

Message Text

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UNCLAS BELGRADE 2633

FOR R. SPENCER OLIVER AT U.S. CONGRESS COMMISSION ON CSCE FROM
STAFFDEL SLETZINGER

EO 11652 NA
TAGS: CSCE YO
SUBJ: APRIL 25-26 BELGRADE ROUNDTABLE FOR JOURNALISTS ON CSCE

1. ON THE WHOLE, JOURNALISTS AT ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION SOUND MORE
LIKE DIPLOMATS THAN JOURNALISTS. RPEDICTABLE PRESENTATIONS FROM
WARSAW PACT MEMBERS, WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE, RATIANI OF PRAVDA,
VOLODIN OF IZVESTYA, BEGLOV OF APN, AND OLEG ZAGLADIN OF IUJ,
TAKING A MORE LOW-KEY, KINDNESS AND KISSES APPROACH THAN THE
EAST EUROPEANS AT LEAST UNTIL NOW.

2. FAMILIAR SOVIET BLOC THEMES ON BASKET III INFORMATION FLOW
HAVE BEEN PRESENTED: STATISTICAL SUPERIORITY, DIFFERING CONDITIONS
AND VALUES IN DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, NO MENTION OF ACTUAL
WORKING CONDITIONS OF JOURNALISTS ON NEWSPAPER AND JOURNAL
AVAILABILITY. HUNGARIAN VIEWS, PRESENTED BY FERENZ OF UJ, WERE
DEVOID OF USUAL WARSAW PACT THEMES. YUGOSLAVS DOING THE USUAL
BALANCING ACT, SKILLFULLY CALLING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS IN ADDITION TO THE CLASSICAL HUMAN
RIGHTS.

3. A NEW INITIATIVE AT THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAS SURFACED. NENNING
OF NEUES FORUM OF AUSTRIA, IN ALL PROBABILITY PUT UP TO IT BY THE
SOVIETS, HAS PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CODE OF CONDUCT
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FOR JOURNALISTS. THIS HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT OF AT LEAST 25 OF THE 80
JOURNALISTS PRESENT, INCLUDING, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, MOST OF THE WARSAW
PACT SCRIBES. THE CODE IS TO BE IN THE FORM OF A CODE OF ETHICS ON
CONDUCT FOR FREE BUT RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM AND IS TO CONTAIN 3
MAIN PRINCIPLES:

- A. THE EXERCISE OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM IS TO BE FREE EVERYWHERE;
- B. IN JOURNALISM, FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY ARE NOT CONTRADICTORY.

JOURNALISTS SHOULD BE CRITICAL BUT FAIR;

C. A SERIES OF QUOTES FROM THE CSCE FINAL ACT ON FREER DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALIST.

4. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THIS CODE BE RAISED AT THE JUNE CONFERENCE FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA IN THE FALL. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE JOURNALIST WHETHER TO ADOPT THE CODE AS PART OF A FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE ROUND-TABLE, AND WHETHER TO ADOPT A COMMUNIQUE AT ALL. CONSENSUS IS NEEDED FOR THIS AND MICHAEL GETTLER OF W.P. HAS ALREADY EXPRESSED HIS TOTAL DISAPPROVAL OF CODE AND COMMUNIQUE.

5. AMERICANS GREATLY OUT-NUMBERED HERE, REPRESENTED ONLY BY GETTLER AND AUBERJENOIS OF TOLEDO BLADE. ON THE FIRST DAY THERE WAS VERY LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE REBUTTAL FROM WESTERN JOURNALIST TO OUTRAGEOUS CLAIMS BY EAST EUROPEANS. ON SECOND DAY, GETTLER DELIVERED EXCELLENT REBUTTAL OF ALL POINTS, CRITICIZING CZECHS FOR THEIR ACTIONS, POINTING TO THE GREAT GULF BETWEEN WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE WEST AND EAST, AND LABELING THE PROPOSAL FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JOURNALIST "ABSURD." IN GENERAL THE SAME INDULGENCE OF WEST EUROPEANS TOWARDS STANDS OF THE EAST, OBSERVED AT ENDHOVEN CONFERENCE, IS IN EVIDENCE HERE ALSO, ONLY WORSE.

6. AT RECEPTION LAST NIGHT HAD SHORT CONVERSATION WITH AMB. PESIC AND RELAYED REGARDS FROM ALL CONCERNED.
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